

Message Text

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SUBJ: RHODESIA: TEXT OF GHANAIAN GOVERNMENT STATEMENT ON THE
ANGLO-AMERICAN PROPOSALS FOR A SETTLEMENT IN RHODESIA

REF: (A) ACCRA 6744 (B) STATE 209162

IN MEETING MORNING SEPTEMBER 13, COMMISSIONER OF
FOREIGN AFFAIRS FELLI GAVE AMBASSADOR AND BRITISH HIGH
COMMISSIONER MILLS TEXT OF GOG STATEMENT WHICH WILL
BE ISSUED LATER TODAY. TEXT FOLLOWS, WITH COMMENT
SEPTEL: BEGIN QUOTE:

TEXT OF GHANAIAN GOVERNMENT STATEMENT ON THE ANGLO-
AMERICAN PROPOSALS FOR A SETTLEMENT OF RHODESIA.

1. ON GHANA'S ATTAINMENT OF INDEPENDENCE, WE
CONSECRATED OURSELVES WITH A COMMITMENT TO THE TOTAL
LIBERATION AND INDEPENDENCE OF AFRICA. TRUE TO THIS
COMMITMENT WE HAVE CONSISTENTLY AND UNFLINCHINGLY
OPPOSED COLONIALISM AND ALL ITS FORMS ON THE AFRICAN
CONTINENT. THE SAME PRINCIPLE HAS BEEN THE RATIONALE
FOR OUR COMMITMENT TO THE ARMED STRUGGLE AS A MEANS
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OF LIBERATING THE AREAS STILL UNDER COLONIAL AND
RACIST DOMINATION AND OPPRESSION IN AFRICA. OUR
COMMITMENT TO THE ARMED STRUGGLE NOTWITHSTANDING, THE
GOVERNMENT HAS BEEN FOLLOWING WITH KEEN INTEREST
AND CONCERN THE TRENDS AND DEVELOPMENTS OF THE LATEST
ANGLO-AMERICAN INITIATIVES TO RESOLVE THE RHODESIAN
CRISIS BY MEANS OF A NEGOTIATED SETTLEMENT. IT IS

AGAINST THE BACKGROUND OF OUR DESIRE AND DETERMINATION TO SEE THE ILLEGAL REGIME OF SMITH TOPPLED THAT THE GOVERNMENT FEELS IT NECESSARY TO ISSUE A STATEMENT ON THE PROPOSALS.

2. THE GOVERNMENT IS, GENERALLY, IN SYMPATHY WITH THE PROPOSALS, HAVING REGARD TO THE DIFFICULT CIRCUMSTANCES IN WHICH THEY WERE DRAWN, AND WOULD WISH THAT THEY SHOULD BE GIVEN SERIOUS CONSIDERATION BY ALL THE PARTIES CONCERNED. THE GOVERNMENT, HOWEVER, CONCEDES THE FACT THAT IN THE FINAL ANALYSIS THE PEOPLE OF ZIMBABWE AND THEY ALONE, ARE THE FINAL ARBITERS OF THEIR DESTINY.

3. THE GHANA GOVERNMENT WISHES, THEREFORE, TO CLARIFY THAT WHILE IT GENERALLY ACCEPTS THE ANGLO-AMERICAN CONSTITUTIONAL PROPOSALS AS A BASIS FOR RETURNING RHODESIA TO LEGALITY, INDEPENDENCE AND MAJORITY RULE, IT CONSIDERS THE ONUS OF FORCING SMITH OUT OF OFFICE TO BE THAT OF THE BRITISH AND AMERICAN INITIATORS OF THE PROPOSALS. IN THIS CONNECTION, THE GHANA GOVERNMENT PLEDGES ITS SUPPORT FOR ANY INTERNATIONAL EFFORT, INCLUDING ACTION IN THE SECURITY COUNCIL TO ACHIEVE LEGALITY AND ORDERLY GOVERNMENT IN RHODESIA.

4. SHOULD THE PRESENT PROPOSALS BE REJECTED BY SMITH, AND SHOULD THE GOVERNMENT OF THE U.K. AND UNCLASSIFIED

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USA BE UNABLE TO COMPEL SMITH TO SURRENDER POWER, THEN THE GHANA GOVERNMENT REITERATES THAT IT WOULD HAVE NO OPTION BUT TO CONTINUE ITS MORAL AND MATERIAL ASSISTANCE TO THE ARMED STRUGGLE UNTIL VICTORY OVER THE ILLEGAL RHODESIAN REGIME IS WON. IN THAT EVENT, THE GHANA GOVERNMENT WOULD ALSO URGE THE U.K. AND USA GOVERNMENTS TO INITIATE IMMEDIATE ACTION IN THE SECURITY COUNCIL WITH A VIEW TO ENFORCING ACTION UNDER ARTICLE 42 OF THE CHARTER. SUCH AN ACTION WOULD RECEIVE THE TOTAL SUPPORT OF THE GHANA GOVERNMENT.

5. AS REGARDS THE TRANSITIONAL GOVERNMENT ENVISAGED IN THE PROPOSALS, THE GHANA GOVERNMENT WISHES TO EXPRESS ITS GENERAL AGREEMENT WITH THE PROVISIONS. HOWEVER, IT WOULD RESERVE ITS POSITION ON CERTAIN ISSUES OF DETAIL SUCH AS THE FORMATION AND STATUS OF THE ZIMBABWE NATIONAL ARMY, THE ROLE OF THE UNITED NATIONS AND RHODESIAN POLICE FORCES, ETC. OUR CONCERN AT THIS STAGE IS TO CALL UPON THE U.K. AND U.S.A. GOVERNMENTS TO ENSURE THAT AT NO STAGE IN THE EXECUTION OF THE PROPOSALS SHOULD THERE BE RETROGRESSION TO ILLEGALITY AND ANARCHY AS WAS

UNFORTUNATELY THE CASE IN THE CONGO TWO DECADES AGO.

6. IT IS THE HOPE OF THE GHANA GOVERNMENT THAT THE
U.K. AND THE USA GOVERNMENTS WOULD TAKE ALL THE
NECESSARY MEASURES TO COMPEL SMITH TO RESIGN SO
THAT THE PROCEDURES FOR A RETURN TO LEGALITY AND
MAJORITY RULE COULD BE SET IN MOTION. END QUOTE
SMITH

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